



SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 6 JUNE 2001

C O N T E N T S

| | <i>page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| Notes | 2 |
| Summary of findings | 3 |
| T A B L E S | |
| List of tables | 6 |
| All jobseekers | 7 |
| Successful jobseekers | 8 |
| Successful jobseekers in their first job | 15 |
| Unsuccessful jobseekers | 16 |
| Populations | 18 |
| A D D I T I O N A L I N F O R M A T I O N | |
| Explanatory notes | 19 |
| Appendix 1: Populations and data items list | 22 |
| Appendix 2: Supplementary surveys | 26 |
| Technical note: Data quality | 27 |
| Glossary | 30 |

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Jon Havelock on Canberra 02 6252 7747.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about the successful and unsuccessful job search experience of persons who sought employment in the 12 months to July 2000. Information is presented on steps taken to find work, the method of job attainment, duration of looking for work and whether job starters were out of work prior to starting.

Statistics in this publication were obtained from the Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience Survey conducted throughout Australia in July 2000 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics monthly Labour Force Survey.

Data were collected from persons who had started a job for wages or salary (successful jobseekers), or who had looked for, but failed to gain such a job (unsuccessful jobseekers) during the previous 12 months. Persons who had started a new job without changing their employer were excluded.

If more than one job was started during the previous 12 months, details were obtained about the most recent job started. Information about a job started relates to the time of commencement of the job rather than the time of the survey.

ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.



ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| CES | Commonwealth Employment Service |
| LFS | Labour Force Survey |
| RSE | relative standard error |
| SE | standard error |

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

In the 12 months to July 2000, there were 2,552,500 jobseekers, a 3.5% decrease since the 12 months to July 1998. Of all these jobseekers, 1,939,200 persons (or 76%) successfully obtained a job for wages or salary. This was an increase of 14% over the number of successful jobseekers for the 12 months to July 1998.

Of these successful jobseekers, 58% were out of work prior to starting their job and the remaining 42% changed employers to start their job. The number of persons starting the first job they had ever held was 232,500 (or 12% of successful jobseekers). This was similar to the level recorded for the 12 months to July 1998 (11%).

Another 613,300 persons unsuccessfully looked for work over the 12 months to July 2000, representing a decrease of 20% from the level recorded in the 12 months to July 1998. About one-third (34%) of unsuccessful jobseekers spent the entire year looking for work.

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS

Methods of job attainment

The majority (77%) of successful jobseekers approached their employer. Most of this group (60%) had prior knowledge that the job was available. The main sources of this knowledge were friends, relatives or company contacts (42% of those with prior knowledge) and newspaper advertisements (35%).

Some 40% of successful jobseekers who approached their employer had no prior knowledge that the job was available. The first step taken by half (50%) of these jobseekers was to contact employers they thought likely to have available jobs.

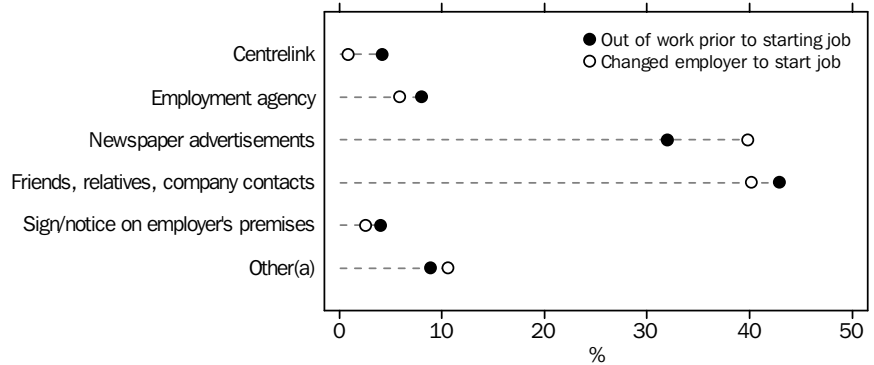
Of the 817,400 jobseekers who changed employer to start their job, most (71%) had approached their employer in search of a job. Of this group, 64% had prior knowledge that a job or work was available with the employer. For most, this information was obtained from friends, relatives or company contacts and from newspaper advertisements (40% each). Some 29% of jobseekers who changed employers to start their job were approached by the employer.

Of the 530,700 successful jobseekers who were out of work prior to starting their job and had prior knowledge that a job or work was available with their employer, 43% obtained that knowledge from friends, relatives and company contacts. Some 18% of jobseekers out of work prior to starting their job were approached by the employer.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Methods of job attainment *continued*

SOURCE OF PRIOR KNOWLEDGE THAT JOB WAS AVAILABLE



(a) Includes school programs and internet sites.

Duration of looking for work

One in five (21%) of successful jobseekers spent between one and under four weeks looking for work before being offered a job. Some 6% had looked for one year or more, while 16% had not looked for work at all.

More than one-third (39%) of all successful jobseekers were young jobseekers (those aged 15–24 years) compared to 4% for those aged 55 and over. These older jobseekers were more likely to have spent a longer time looking for work than their younger counterparts. Some 15% of older jobseekers had spent one or more years looking for work before finding a job compared to just 4% of young jobseekers.

Those who changed employer were less likely to have spent long periods of time looking for work. Some 3% of those who changed employer had been looking for work for one year or more compared to 8% of those who were out of work prior to starting a job.

Educational attainment

Some 45% of successful jobseekers had a post-school qualification while 48% did not have a post-school qualification. The remaining 7% of successful jobseekers were still at school.

Of all jobseekers, those with post-school qualifications were more likely to obtain work than those without a post-school qualification. Four out of five (82%) of those with post-school qualifications were successful in obtaining a job compared to 72% of those without post-school qualifications.

Persons starting their first job

There were 232,500 first job starters in the 12 months to July 2000, a 22% increase from the estimate for the 12 months to July 1998. Persons starting their first job made up 12% of all successful jobseekers.

The majority (69%) of first jobs were part-time and males accounted for just over half (52%) of all persons starting their first job.

More than one-third (36%) of successful jobseekers starting their first job had found employment as Elementary clerical, sales and service workers. A further 22% found work as Labourers and related workers and 18% as Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Persons starting their first job continued

One in five (20%) of successful jobseekers who started their first job spent between one and four weeks looking for work. A further 13% spent between four and under eight weeks looking for work. Most (58%) had obtained a job in their preferred occupation.

UNSUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS

In July 2000, one in four (24%) of all jobseekers had looked unsuccessfully for work in the previous 12 months. Most unsuccessful jobseekers were males (53%) and one-third (33%) were aged 15–24 years. Some 60% of unsuccessful jobseekers did not have a post-school qualification.

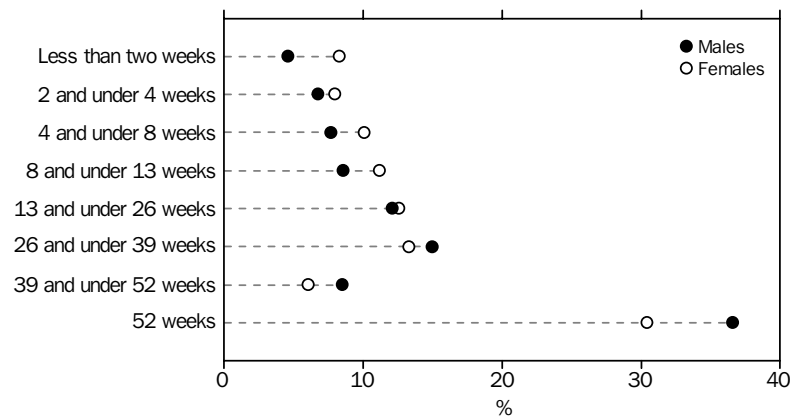
More than half (56%) of the unsuccessful jobseekers had a preferred occupation in which they were seeking a job. Of those with a preferred occupation, 19% were looking for work as Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers and a further 14% were looking for work as Elementary clerical, sales and service workers. Of this group who had a preferred occupation, 71% contacted prospective employers in their job search and 46% were registered with Centrelink.

Jobseekers in older age groups were more likely to be unsuccessful. Some 40% of all jobseekers aged 55 and over were unsuccessful, as were 31% of those aged 45–54 years and 28% of those aged 35–44 years. The lowest proportion of unsuccessful jobseekers was in the 25–34 years age group (19%).

The majority (43%) of unsuccessful jobseekers had looked for both full-time or part-time work or had no preference, and a further one-third (34%) had looked only for part-time work.

Approximately one-third (34%) of unsuccessful jobseekers had spent the entire twelve months to July 2000 looking for work.

TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE 12 MONTHS TO JULY 2000



LIST OF TABLES

page

ALL JOBSEEKERS

- 1** Selected characteristics 7

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS

- 2** Selected characteristics, July 1990 to July 2000 8

METHOD OF JOB ATTAINMENT

- 3** Whether first job ever held 9

- 4** Whether out of work prior to starting job 11

LOOKING FOR WORK

- 5** Age 12

- 6** Educational attainment 13

OCCUPATION

- 7** Whether job was in preferred occupation 14

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS IN THEIR FIRST JOB

- 8** Selected characteristics 15

UNSUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS

- 9** Selected characteristics, July 1990 to July 2000 16

- 10** Selected characteristics 17

POPULATIONS

- 11** State or territory of usual residence 18

ALL JOBSEEKERS, Selected characteristics

| | <i>Successful jobseekers</i> | <i>Unsuccessful jobseekers</i> | <i>All jobseekers</i> |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| Sex | | | |
| Males | 982.4 | 327.6 | 1 310.0 |
| Females | 956.7 | 285.7 | 1 242.4 |
| Age group (years) | | | |
| 15-19 | 378.9 | 111.0 | 489.9 |
| 20-24 | 371.8 | 91.7 | 463.5 |
| 25-34 | 547.5 | 126.5 | 674.0 |
| 35-44 | 354.4 | 139.1 | 493.5 |
| 45-54 | 216.9 | 99.2 | 316.1 |
| 55 and over | 69.7 | 45.8 | 115.5 |
| Educational attainment | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 866.1 | 191.3 | 1 057.3 |
| Without post-school qualifications(a) | 929.1 | 369.8 | 1 298.9 |
| Still at school | 144.0 | 52.2 | 196.2 |
| Birthplace | | | |
| Born in Australia | 1 501.1 | 442.5 | 1 943.5 |
| Born outside Australia | 438.1 | 170.8 | 609.0 |
| Born in main English-speaking countries | 210.3 | 52.9 | 263.2 |
| Born in other countries | 227.8 | 117.9 | 345.7 |
| Labour force status and full-time or part-time status | | | |
| In the labour force | 1 796.4 | 418.3 | 2 214.7 |
| Employed | 1 643.6 | 40.6 | 1 684.1 |
| Full-time | 1 053.7 | 20.0 | 1 073.7 |
| Part-time | 589.9 | 20.6 | 610.4 |
| Unemployed | 152.8 | 377.7 | 530.5 |
| Looking for full-time work | 118.8 | 284.9 | 403.7 |
| Looking for part-time work | 34.0 | 92.8 | 126.8 |
| Not in the labour force | 142.8 | 195.0 | 337.8 |
| Total | 1 939.2 | 613.3 | 2 552.5 |

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS, Selected characteristics

| | July 1990 | July 1992 | July 1994 | July 1996 | July 1998 | July 2000 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| PROPORTION (%) | | | | | | |
| Sex | | | | | | |
| Males | 50.8 | 50.3 | 50.3 | 50.2 | 51.4 | 50.7 |
| Females | 49.2 | 49.7 | 49.7 | 49.8 | 48.6 | 49.3 |
| Age group (years) | | | | | | |
| 15-19 | 23.8 | 21.1 | 21.2 | 19.8 | 19.6 | 19.5 |
| 20-24 | 20.4 | 22.2 | 22.0 | 21.2 | 21.1 | 19.2 |
| 25-34 | 28.5 | 28.4 | 28.2 | 28.1 | 27.5 | 28.2 |
| 35-44 | 17.7 | 17.9 | 17.5 | 18.2 | 17.6 | 18.3 |
| 45-54 | 7.3 | 7.9 | 8.5 | 9.9 | 10.9 | 11.2 |
| 55 and over | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 3.3 | 3.6 |
| Educational attainment | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 41.5 | 46.3 | 40.8 | 42.6 | 43.1 | 44.7 |
| Without post-school qualifications(a) | 51.8 | 47.1 | 52.4 | 50.7 | 50.1 | 47.9 |
| Still at school | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 7.4 |
| Birthplace | | | | | | |
| Born in Australia | 76.6 | 77.9 | 78.7 | 78.9 | 79.3 | 77.4 |
| Born outside Australia | 23.4 | 22.1 | 21.3 | 21.1 | 20.7 | 22.6 |
| Born in main English-speaking countries | 12.2 | 11.7 | 11.6 | 10.8 | 11.1 | 10.8 |
| Born in other countries | 11.3 | 10.4 | 9.7 | 10.3 | 9.6 | 11.7 |
| Labour force status (at the time of the survey) | | | | | | |
| In the labour force | 90.7 | 91.2 | 92.2 | 91.8 | 92.3 | 92.6 |
| Employed | 81.4 | 78.0 | 82.0 | 81.2 | 83.0 | 84.8 |
| Unemployed | 9.3 | 13.2 | 10.2 | 10.5 | 9.4 | 7.9 |
| Not in the labour force | 9.3 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 7.7 | 7.4 |
| Active steps taken to find work in preferred occupation in the previous twelve months | | | | | | |
| Had a preferred occupation(b) | 86.3 | 85.8 | 86.0 | 87.6 | 84.4 | 84.5 |
| This job was in preferred occupation | 70.5 | 64.5 | 67.1 | 68.5 | 68.9 | 69.8 |
| This job was not in preferred occupation | 15.8 | 19.0 | 16.7 | 17.1 | 13.9 | 12.7 |
| Registered with Centrelink/CES(c) | 6.1 | 8.7 | 7.4 | 6.4 | 4.4 | 3.4 |
| Took no other active steps | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Contacted prospective employers | 4.6 | 7.3 | 5.7 | 4.7 | 3.7 | 2.7 |
| Took other active steps | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Not registered with Centrelink/CES(c) | 6.8 | 7.5 | 6.6 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Took only inactive steps | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Contacted prospective employers | 4.1 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 3.8 | 4.2 |
| Took other active steps | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 1.8 |
| Had not looked for work in preferred occupation | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.1 |
| Preferred occupation not specified | .. | 2.3 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| Did not have a preferred occupation | (d)13.7 | 14.2 | 14.0 | 12.5 | 15.6 | 15.5 |
| Full-time or part-time status of job when started | | | | | | |
| Full-time | 63.1 | 56.4 | 56.6 | 55.1 | 55.1 | 54.8 |
| Part-time | 36.8 | 43.6 | 43.4 | 44.9 | 44.9 | 45.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| NUMBER OF PERSONS ('000) | | | | | | |
| Total | 1 880.3 | 1 453.0 | 1 731.5 | 1 882.8 | 1 695.2 | 1 939.2 |

.. not applicable

(a) Includes persons who never attended school and, prior to July 1994, persons for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined.

(b) Includes persons who had not looked for work in their preferred occupation.

(c) Changes to employment service arrangements occurred during the period September 1997 to May 1998. See paragraphs 11 to 15 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Includes persons for whom a preferred occupation was not specified.

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS, Whether first job ever held

| Method of job attainment | WHETHER JOB WAS IN PREFERRED OCCUPATION . . . | | | STATUS OF JOB WHEN STARTED . . . | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Job was in preferred occupation | Job was not in preferred occupation | Did not have preferred occupation | Full-time | Part-time | Total(a) |
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| FIRST JOB EVER HELD | | | | | | |
| Jobseeker approached employer | 107.5 | 24.0 | 53.3 | 55.7 | 131.4 | 187.1 |
| Had no prior knowledge that job was available | 46.1 | 10.5 | 20.8 | 19.9 | 58.4 | 78.4 |
| First step taken | | | | | | |
| Tendered or advertised for work | *1.6 | *1.1 | *— | *1.7 | *1.4 | *3.0 |
| Contacted likely employers | 27.5 | *4.9 | 14.3 | 8.3 | 39.1 | 47.3 |
| Contacted friends or relations | 7.3 | *1.8 | *3.3 | *1.5 | 10.9 | 12.4 |
| Registered with or used Centrelink services | *0.9 | *1.5 | **0.7 | *1.4 | *1.7 | *3.2 |
| Other steps taken | 8.9 | *1.1 | *2.5 | 7.1 | 5.4 | 12.5 |
| Had prior knowledge that job or work was available | 61.3 | 13.5 | 32.4 | 35.7 | 73.0 | 108.7 |
| Knowledge was obtained through | | | | | | |
| Centrelink | *2.3 | *1.0 | *1.4 | *2.3 | *2.4 | *4.7 |
| Employment agency | *2.1 | **0.5 | **0.7 | *1.4 | *1.9 | *3.2 |
| School programs | *2.4 | **— | **0.7 | *1.2 | *1.8 | *3.1 |
| Newspaper advertisements | 15.3 | *3.3 | 6.4 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 25.6 |
| Internet sites | *1.0 | **— | **0.1 | **0.1 | *1.0 | *1.1 |
| Friends, relatives, company contacts | 28.1 | 7.4 | 17.8 | 14.0 | 40.0 | 53.9 |
| Sign or notice on employer's premises | *2.8 | *1.4 | *3.2 | **— | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Other source | 7.4 | **— | *2.2 | *3.9 | 5.6 | 9.5 |
| Employer approached jobseeker | 26.8 | *4.2 | 13.1 | 16.0 | 29.4 | 45.4 |
| Total | 134.2 | 28.2 | 66.3 | 71.7 | 160.8 | 232.5 |
| HAD WORKED BEFORE | | | | | | |
| Jobseeker approached employer | 935.4 | 176.0 | 175.9 | 775.5 | 537.5 | 1 313.0 |
| Had no prior knowledge that job was available | 366.5 | 74.3 | 66.2 | 294.6 | 224.5 | 519.1 |
| First step taken | | | | | | |
| Tendered or advertised for work | 23.7 | *3.0 | *1.1 | 18.5 | 10.1 | 28.6 |
| Contacted likely employers | 183.0 | 31.9 | 34.0 | 131.3 | 122.5 | 253.8 |
| Contacted friends or relations | 49.1 | 15.3 | 15.3 | 40.5 | 42.4 | 82.9 |
| Registered with or used Centrelink services | 12.8 | 5.5 | *4.9 | 17.7 | 7.3 | 25.0 |
| Other steps taken | 97.9 | 18.6 | 10.9 | 86.6 | 42.2 | 128.8 |
| Had prior knowledge that job or work was available | 568.9 | 101.6 | 109.8 | 480.9 | 313.0 | 793.9 |
| Knowledge was obtained through | | | | | | |
| Centrelink | 10.6 | 5.6 | *4.6 | 13.6 | 7.4 | 21.0 |
| Employment agency | 38.4 | 9.5 | 11.7 | 48.5 | 12.4 | 61.0 |
| School programs | *5.0 | **— | **0.2 | *2.0 | *3.2 | 5.2 |
| Newspaper advertisements | 216.5 | 37.9 | 33.8 | 192.8 | 99.7 | 292.6 |
| Internet sites | 11.4 | *0.8 | *0.9 | 9.5 | *3.9 | 13.4 |
| Friends, relatives, company contacts | 229.8 | 39.6 | 49.5 | 180.9 | 142.5 | 323.5 |
| Sign or notice on employer's premises | 14.0 | *2.7 | *4.6 | 5.3 | 17.8 | 23.1 |
| Other source | 43.3 | 5.6 | *4.4 | 28.2 | 26.1 | 54.3 |
| Employer approached jobseeker | 283.7 | 42.7 | 57.9 | 215.6 | 178.1 | 393.7 |
| Total | 1 219.1 | 218.7 | 233.9 | 991.1 | 715.6 | 1 706.7 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
 ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
 (a) Includes persons whose preferred occupation was not specified.

| <i>Method of job attainment</i> | WHETHER JOB WAS IN PREFERRED OCCUPATION . . . | | | STATUS OF JOB WHEN STARTED . . . | | <i>Total(a)</i> |
|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | <i>Job was in preferred occupation</i> | <i>Job was not in preferred occupation</i> | <i>Did not have preferred occupation</i> | <i>Full -time</i> | <i>Part -time</i> | |
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |
| Jobseeker approached employer | 1 042.9 | 199.9 | 229.2 | 831.2 | 668.9 | 1 500.1 |
| Had no prior knowledge that job was available | 412.7 | 84.8 | 87.0 | 314.6 | 282.9 | 597.5 |
| First step taken | | | | | | |
| Tendered or advertised for work | 25.3 | *4.2 | *1.1 | 20.2 | 11.5 | 31.7 |
| Contacted likely employers | 210.5 | 36.8 | 48.3 | 139.6 | 161.5 | 301.1 |
| Contacted friends or relations | 56.4 | 17.1 | 18.5 | 42.0 | 53.3 | 95.3 |
| Registered with or used Centrelink services | 13.7 | 7.0 | 5.6 | 19.1 | 9.0 | 28.1 |
| Other steps taken | 106.8 | 19.7 | 13.4 | 93.7 | 47.6 | 141.3 |
| Had prior knowledge that job or work was available | 630.2 | 115.1 | 142.2 | 516.6 | 386.0 | 902.6 |
| Knowledge was obtained through | | | | | | |
| Centrelink | 12.9 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 15.9 | 9.8 | 25.7 |
| Employment agency | 40.4 | 10.0 | 12.4 | 49.9 | 14.3 | 64.2 |
| School programs | 7.4 | **— | *0.8 | *3.2 | *5.0 | 8.2 |
| Newspaper advertisements | 231.8 | 41.2 | 40.2 | 205.7 | 112.5 | 318.2 |
| Internet sites | 12.4 | *0.8 | *1.0 | 9.6 | *4.9 | 14.5 |
| Friends, relatives, company contacts | 257.8 | 47.0 | 67.3 | 194.9 | 182.5 | 377.4 |
| Sign or notice on employer's premises | 16.8 | *4.1 | 7.8 | 5.3 | 25.3 | 30.6 |
| Other source | 50.7 | 5.6 | 6.5 | 32.1 | 31.8 | 63.9 |
| Employer approached jobseeker | 310.5 | 46.9 | 71.0 | 231.6 | 207.5 | 439.1 |
| Total | 1 353.3 | 246.9 | 300.2 | 1 062.8 | 876.4 | 1 939.2 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes persons whose preferred occupation was not specified.

4

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS, Whether out of work prior to starting job

| <i>Method of job attainment</i> | OUT OF WORK PRIOR TO STARTING JOB | | | CHANGED EMPLOYER TO START JOB | | | TOTAL | | |
|--|---|----------------|----------------|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Persons</i> | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Persons</i> | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Persons</i> |
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| Jobseeker approached employer | 475.4 | 446.2 | 921.5 | 291.5 | 287.0 | 578.5 | 766.9 | 733.2 | 1 500.1 |
| Had no prior knowledge that job was available | 189.7 | 201.1 | 390.9 | 110.0 | 96.6 | 206.6 | 299.8 | 297.7 | 597.5 |
| First step taken | | | | | | | | | |
| Tendered or advertised for work | 7.1 | 13.0 | 20.1 | 5.4 | 6.2 | 11.5 | 12.5 | 19.2 | 31.7 |
| Contacted likely employers | 94.3 | 105.8 | 200.1 | 53.7 | 47.3 | 101.0 | 148.0 | 153.1 | 301.1 |
| Contacted friends or relations | 35.2 | 26.7 | 61.9 | 21.1 | 12.3 | 33.4 | 56.3 | 39.0 | 95.3 |
| Registered with or used Centrelink services | 12.7 | 10.8 | 23.4 | *3.2 | *1.5 | *4.7 | 15.9 | 12.2 | 28.1 |
| Other steps taken | 40.4 | 44.9 | 85.4 | 26.6 | 29.4 | 56.0 | 67.0 | 74.3 | 141.3 |
| Had prior knowledge that job or work was available | 285.6 | 245.1 | 530.7 | 181.5 | 190.4 | 371.9 | 467.1 | 435.5 | 902.6 |
| Knowledge was obtained through | | | | | | | | | |
| Centrelink | 16.7 | 5.5 | 22.2 | *0.9 | *2.6 | *3.5 | 17.6 | 8.0 | 25.7 |
| Employment agency | 23.6 | 18.6 | 42.2 | 9.8 | 12.2 | 22.0 | 33.4 | 30.8 | 64.2 |
| School programs | *2.9 | *2.6 | 5.6 | *1.1 | *1.5 | *2.6 | *4.1 | *4.2 | 8.2 |
| Newspaper advertisements | 84.3 | 86.0 | 170.2 | 66.2 | 81.7 | 147.9 | 150.5 | 167.7 | 318.2 |
| Internet sites | *3.8 | *2.7 | 6.4 | *2.6 | 5.4 | 8.0 | 6.4 | 8.1 | 14.5 |
| Friends, relatives, company contacts | 128.8 | 99.2 | 227.9 | 85.0 | 64.5 | 149.5 | 213.7 | 163.6 | 377.4 |
| Sign or notice on employer's premises | 9.7 | 11.4 | 21.0 | *3.6 | 6.0 | 9.6 | 13.3 | 17.4 | 30.6 |
| Other source | 15.9 | 19.2 | 35.1 | 12.3 | 16.5 | 28.7 | 28.2 | 35.7 | 63.9 |
| Employer approached jobseeker | 91.4 | 108.9 | 200.3 | 124.2 | 114.6 | 238.8 | 215.6 | 223.5 | 439.1 |
| Total | 566.7 | 555.1 | 1 121.8 | 415.7 | 401.7 | 817.4 | 982.4 | 956.7 | 1 939.2 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS, Age

| Duration of looking for work before being offered job | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55 and over | Total |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| MALES | | | | | | | |
| Had looked for work | 128.5 | 134.7 | 175.1 | 102.6 | 64.0 | 23.4 | 628.2 |
| Less than 1 year | 119.9 | 126.2 | 153.4 | 88.9 | 52.6 | 16.4 | 557.5 |
| 1 and under 4 weeks | 43.7 | 47.3 | 65.0 | 28.4 | 16.7 | *4.8 | 205.8 |
| 4 and under 8 weeks | 23.5 | 27.6 | 27.9 | 15.6 | 11.5 | *3.4 | 109.5 |
| 8 and under 13 weeks | 21.4 | 23.4 | 28.0 | 16.5 | 8.5 | *3.2 | 101.0 |
| 13 and under 26 weeks | 19.0 | 12.6 | 19.1 | 18.9 | 7.3 | *2.8 | 79.7 |
| 26 and under 52 weeks | 12.3 | 15.3 | 13.4 | 9.6 | 8.6 | *2.2 | 61.6 |
| 1 and under 2 years | 6.6 | 5.3 | 11.3 | 5.5 | 5.6 | *2.4 | 36.8 |
| 2 and under 5 years | *1.9 | *2.8 | 7.9 | 6.3 | *4.2 | *4.0 | 27.1 |
| 5 years and over | **— | **0.3 | *2.4 | *1.9 | *1.6 | **0.6 | 6.8 |
| Had not looked for work(a) | 26.3 | 17.3 | 44.9 | 33.2 | 18.5 | 13.1 | 153.3 |
| Not determined(b) | 43.8 | 39.8 | 55.8 | 33.2 | 20.9 | 7.6 | 200.9 |
| Total | 198.5 | 191.8 | 275.8 | 168.9 | 103.4 | 44.1 | 982.4 |
| FEMALES | | | | | | | |
| Had looked for work | 115.2 | 109.8 | 157.2 | 98.0 | 64.5 | 14.7 | 559.4 |
| Less than 1 year | 111.4 | 102.0 | 145.9 | 86.7 | 53.1 | 11.0 | 510.0 |
| 1 and under 4 weeks | 41.0 | 49.3 | 64.1 | 26.0 | 17.6 | *3.6 | 201.6 |
| 4 and under 8 weeks | 26.2 | 19.3 | 27.5 | 17.5 | 11.3 | *1.2 | 103.1 |
| 8 and under 13 weeks | 18.8 | 14.8 | 24.8 | 16.3 | 9.6 | *1.9 | 86.1 |
| 13 and under 26 weeks | 15.8 | 9.7 | 15.4 | 15.2 | 5.7 | *1.5 | 63.3 |
| 26 and under 52 weeks | 9.6 | 8.9 | 14.1 | 11.7 | 8.9 | *2.8 | 55.9 |
| 1 and under 2 years | *3.7 | *4.9 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 7.0 | *1.1 | 31.4 |
| 2 and under 5 years | **— | *2.3 | *3.0 | *3.2 | *3.9 | *2.2 | 14.6 |
| 5 years and over | **— | **0.7 | **0.6 | *1.1 | **0.5 | **0.4 | *3.3 |
| Had not looked for work(a) | 20.7 | 23.7 | 42.6 | 41.9 | 24.8 | 5.3 | 159.1 |
| Not determined(b) | 44.5 | 46.4 | 71.9 | 45.6 | 24.2 | 5.7 | 238.3 |
| Total | 180.4 | 180.0 | 271.7 | 185.5 | 113.6 | 25.6 | 956.7 |
| PERSONS | | | | | | | |
| Had looked for work | 243.6 | 244.5 | 332.3 | 200.6 | 128.5 | 38.1 | 1 187.6 |
| Less than 1 year | 231.3 | 228.2 | 299.3 | 175.6 | 105.7 | 27.4 | 1 067.5 |
| 1 and under 4 weeks | 84.7 | 96.6 | 129.1 | 54.4 | 34.3 | 8.4 | 407.4 |
| 4 and under 8 weeks | 49.7 | 46.9 | 55.4 | 33.1 | 22.9 | *4.6 | 212.6 |
| 8 and under 13 weeks | 40.2 | 38.2 | 52.8 | 32.7 | 18.0 | *5.1 | 187.1 |
| 13 and under 26 weeks | 34.9 | 22.3 | 34.5 | 34.0 | 13.0 | *4.3 | 143.0 |
| 26 and under 52 weeks | 21.9 | 24.2 | 27.5 | 21.3 | 17.5 | *5.0 | 117.4 |
| 1 and under 2 years | 10.4 | 10.3 | 19.0 | 12.4 | 12.6 | *3.5 | 68.2 |
| 2 and under 5 years | *1.9 | *5.1 | 10.9 | 9.5 | 8.1 | 6.2 | 41.7 |
| 5 years and over | **— | *1.0 | *3.0 | *3.0 | *2.1 | *1.0 | 10.1 |
| Had not looked for work(a) | 47.0 | 41.1 | 87.5 | 75.1 | 43.3 | 18.4 | 312.4 |
| Not determined(b) | 88.3 | 86.2 | 127.7 | 78.7 | 45.1 | 13.3 | 439.2 |
| Total | 378.9 | 371.8 | 547.5 | 354.4 | 216.9 | 69.7 | 1 939.2 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Comprises successful jobseekers who were approached by employers.

(b) Includes some jobseekers who looked for work for less than one week and others whose duration was not known.

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS, Educational attainment

| Duration of looking for work before being offered job | WITH POST-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS | | | WITHOUT POST-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS(a) | | | TOTAL(b) | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| | <i>Out of work prior to starting job</i> | <i>Changed employer to start job</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Out of work prior to starting job</i> | <i>Changed employer to start job</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Out of work prior to starting job</i> | <i>Changed employer to start job</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| MALES | | | | | | | | | |
| Had looked for work | 171.8 | 95.0 | 266.7 | 246.3 | 73.1 | 319.4 | 456.5 | 171.7 | 628.2 |
| Less than 1 year | 150.6 | 86.1 | 236.7 | 213.7 | 67.3 | 281.0 | 400.4 | 157.1 | 557.5 |
| 1 and under 4 weeks | 48.5 | 38.1 | 86.6 | 71.0 | 33.5 | 104.5 | 132.4 | 73.4 | 205.8 |
| 4 and under 8 weeks | 31.7 | 17.4 | 49.1 | 41.8 | 10.4 | 52.2 | 80.2 | 29.3 | 109.5 |
| 8 and under 13 weeks | 27.3 | 15.3 | 42.6 | 39.9 | 11.3 | 51.2 | 73.9 | 27.1 | 101.0 |
| 13 and under 26 weeks | 25.0 | 7.9 | 32.9 | 35.8 | 6.9 | 42.6 | 64.9 | 14.7 | 79.7 |
| 26 and under 52 weeks | 18.1 | 7.4 | 25.5 | 25.3 | 5.3 | 30.5 | 49.0 | 12.6 | 61.6 |
| 1 and under 2 years | 10.7 | 5.2 | 15.8 | 16.8 | *2.2 | 19.1 | 29.4 | 7.4 | 36.8 |
| 2 and under 5 years | 8.1 | *2.6 | 10.7 | 12.6 | *3.4 | 16.0 | 21.1 | 6.0 | 27.1 |
| 5 years and over | *2.3 | *1.1 | *3.4 | *3.2 | **0.1 | *3.3 | 5.6 | *1.2 | 6.8 |
| Had not looked for work(c) | 13.5 | 58.8 | 72.3 | 22.2 | 48.1 | 70.3 | 44.3 | 109.0 | 153.3 |
| Not determined(d) | 21.2 | 70.0 | 91.2 | 28.0 | 62.6 | 90.6 | 66.0 | 134.9 | 200.9 |
| Total | 206.5 | 223.8 | 430.2 | 296.4 | 183.8 | 480.2 | 566.7 | 415.7 | 982.4 |
| FEMALES | | | | | | | | | |
| Had looked for work | 151.0 | 101.5 | 252.5 | 201.7 | 61.4 | 263.1 | 392.9 | 166.4 | 559.4 |
| Less than 1 year | 137.6 | 93.3 | 230.9 | 178.8 | 57.7 | 236.5 | 355.7 | 154.3 | 510.0 |
| 1 and under 4 weeks | 43.6 | 46.7 | 90.3 | 64.8 | 31.0 | 95.8 | 121.4 | 80.2 | 201.6 |
| 4 and under 8 weeks | 31.4 | 17.1 | 48.5 | 33.0 | 10.7 | 43.7 | 74.9 | 28.2 | 103.1 |
| 8 and under 13 weeks | 26.4 | 14.2 | 40.6 | 32.3 | 6.0 | 38.2 | 65.6 | 20.5 | 86.1 |
| 13 and under 26 weeks | 19.0 | 8.4 | 27.4 | 25.3 | 5.2 | 30.5 | 49.7 | 13.6 | 63.3 |
| 26 and under 52 weeks | 17.2 | 6.9 | 24.1 | 23.4 | *4.9 | 28.2 | 44.1 | 11.8 | 55.9 |
| 1 and under 2 years | 8.8 | *4.1 | 12.9 | 14.0 | *3.4 | 17.4 | 23.7 | 7.7 | 31.4 |
| 2 and under 5 years | *3.4 | *3.9 | 7.4 | 6.9 | **0.3 | 7.3 | 10.4 | *4.2 | 14.6 |
| 5 years and over | *1.2 | **0.2 | *1.4 | *2.0 | **— | *2.0 | *3.1 | **0.2 | *3.3 |
| Had not looked for work(c) | 22.8 | 50.4 | 73.2 | 35.0 | 42.0 | 77.1 | 64.7 | 94.3 | 159.1 |
| Not determined(d) | 33.6 | 76.5 | 110.1 | 47.9 | 60.8 | 108.8 | 97.4 | 140.9 | 238.3 |
| Total | 207.4 | 228.4 | 435.8 | 284.6 | 164.3 | 448.9 | 555.1 | 401.7 | 956.7 |
| PERSONS | | | | | | | | | |
| Had looked for work | 322.8 | 196.5 | 519.3 | 448.0 | 134.5 | 582.5 | 849.4 | 338.2 | 1 187.6 |
| Less than 1 year | 288.3 | 179.4 | 467.6 | 392.4 | 125.1 | 517.5 | 756.1 | 311.4 | 1 067.5 |
| 1 and under 4 weeks | 92.1 | 84.7 | 176.9 | 135.8 | 64.5 | 200.3 | 253.8 | 153.6 | 407.4 |
| 4 and under 8 weeks | 63.1 | 34.5 | 97.6 | 74.8 | 21.1 | 96.0 | 155.1 | 57.5 | 212.6 |
| 8 and under 13 weeks | 53.7 | 29.5 | 83.2 | 72.2 | 17.3 | 89.4 | 139.5 | 47.6 | 187.1 |
| 13 and under 26 weeks | 44.0 | 16.3 | 60.2 | 61.0 | 12.1 | 73.1 | 114.6 | 28.4 | 143.0 |
| 26 and under 52 weeks | 35.4 | 14.3 | 49.6 | 48.6 | 10.1 | 58.7 | 93.0 | 24.4 | 117.4 |
| 1 and under 2 years | 19.4 | 9.3 | 28.7 | 30.8 | 5.6 | 36.5 | 53.1 | 15.2 | 68.2 |
| 2 and under 5 years | 11.6 | 6.5 | 18.1 | 19.5 | *3.7 | 23.2 | 31.5 | 10.3 | 41.7 |
| 5 years and over | *3.5 | *1.3 | *4.8 | 5.2 | **0.1 | 5.3 | 8.7 | *1.4 | 10.1 |
| Had not looked for work(c) | 36.3 | 109.1 | 145.5 | 57.2 | 90.1 | 147.3 | 109.0 | 203.4 | 312.4 |
| Not determined(d) | 54.8 | 146.5 | 201.3 | 75.9 | 123.4 | 199.3 | 163.4 | 275.8 | 439.2 |
| Total | 413.9 | 452.2 | 866.1 | 581.0 | 348.1 | 929.1 | 1 121.8 | 817.4 | 1 939.2 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Includes persons still at school.

(c) Comprises successful jobseekers who were approached by employers.

(d) Includes some jobseekers who looked for work for less than one week and others whose duration was not known.

SUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS, Whether job was in preferred occupation

| <i>Occupation of job when started</i> | <i>Job was in preferred occupation</i> | <i>Job was not in preferred occupation</i> | <i>Did not have preferred occupation</i> | <i>Total(a)</i> |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------|
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| | | | | |
| OUT OF WORK PRIOR TO STARTING JOB | | | | |
| Managers and administrators | 10.3 | *1.5 | **0.4 | 12.1 |
| Professionals | 99.6 | 5.8 | *4.3 | 110.8 |
| Associate professionals | 46.9 | 5.7 | *4.3 | 57.7 |
| Tradespersons and related workers | 79.2 | 11.2 | 11.1 | 104.2 |
| Advanced clerical and service workers | 22.1 | *4.1 | *3.4 | 30.0 |
| Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers | 171.9 | 34.5 | 40.6 | 249.4 |
| Intermediate production and transport workers | 54.7 | 22.7 | 29.9 | 109.5 |
| Elementary clerical, sales and service workers | 113.6 | 36.2 | 60.4 | 216.6 |
| Labourers and related workers | 103.4 | 53.1 | 65.4 | 231.5 |
| Total | 701.6 | 174.7 | 219.7 | 1 121.8 |
| | | | | |
| CHANGED EMPLOYER TO START JOB | | | | |
| Managers and administrators | 31.9 | *1.0 | **0.7 | 33.6 |
| Professionals | 150.2 | 8.7 | 6.2 | 166.6 |
| Associate professionals | 73.6 | *3.2 | 6.4 | 84.6 |
| Tradespersons and related workers | 76.2 | *3.3 | *4.1 | 85.6 |
| Advanced clerical and service workers | 32.2 | *1.8 | *2.1 | 36.9 |
| Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers | 141.8 | 17.7 | 18.5 | 179.1 |
| Intermediate production and transport workers | 44.1 | 9.8 | 10.9 | 67.6 |
| Elementary clerical, sales and service workers | 61.1 | 11.5 | 15.7 | 89.8 |
| Labourers and related workers | 40.7 | 15.4 | 15.9 | 73.6 |
| Total | 651.7 | 72.1 | 80.5 | 817.4 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |
| Managers and administrators | 42.1 | *2.4 | *1.1 | 45.7 |
| Professionals | 249.7 | 14.5 | 10.5 | 277.4 |
| Associate professionals | 120.4 | 8.8 | 10.7 | 142.3 |
| Tradespersons and related workers | 155.4 | 14.5 | 15.2 | 189.9 |
| Advanced clerical and service workers | 54.3 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 66.9 |
| Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers | 313.8 | 52.2 | 59.1 | 428.5 |
| Intermediate production and transport workers | 98.8 | 32.5 | 40.8 | 177.1 |
| Elementary clerical, sales and service workers | 174.7 | 47.7 | 76.1 | 306.4 |
| Labourers and related workers | 144.2 | 68.4 | 81.3 | 305.0 |
| Total | 1 353.3 | 246.9 | 300.2 | 1 939.2 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes persons whose preferred occupation was not specified.

| | <i>With post-school qualifications</i> | <i>Without post-school qualifications(a)</i> | <i>Still at school</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|--------------|
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| Sex | | | | |
| Males | 15.4 | 55.2 | 49.6 | 120.1 |
| Females | 17.5 | 44.3 | 50.5 | 112.4 |
| Occupation | | | | |
| Managers and administrators | **0.5 | **0.4 | **— | *0.8 |
| Professionals | 9.1 | *2.8 | *1.0 | 12.9 |
| Associate professionals | *3.1 | *1.9 | *1.9 | 7.0 |
| Tradespersons and related workers | *2.9 | 13.4 | *0.9 | 17.2 |
| Advanced clerical and service workers | **0.7 | *2.3 | **0.4 | *3.4 |
| Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers | 8.2 | 21.5 | 12.1 | 41.8 |
| Intermediate production and transport workers | **— | 7.4 | 6.6 | 14.0 |
| Elementary clerical, sales and service workers | *4.7 | 26.2 | 53.7 | 84.6 |
| Labourers and related workers | *3.6 | 23.8 | 23.3 | 50.7 |
| Duration of looking for work before being offered job | | | | |
| Had looked for work | 23.7 | 68.6 | 58.2 | 150.5 |
| Less than 1 year | 19.7 | 61.2 | 55.8 | 136.7 |
| 1 and under 4 weeks | 5.7 | 20.1 | 20.0 | 45.9 |
| 4 and under 8 weeks | 5.3 | 12.4 | 12.3 | 29.9 |
| 8 and under 13 weeks | 5.3 | 11.1 | 9.4 | 25.9 |
| 13 and under 26 weeks | *1.5 | 8.9 | 6.7 | 17.1 |
| 26 and under 52 weeks | *1.9 | 8.7 | 7.4 | 18.0 |
| 1 and under 2 years | *3.3 | *4.8 | *2.0 | 10.1 |
| 2 years and over | **0.7 | *2.6 | **0.4 | *3.7 |
| Had not looked for work(b) | *2.5 | 12.7 | 14.2 | 29.4 |
| Not determined(c) | 6.6 | 18.2 | 27.7 | 52.6 |
| Whether job started was in preferred occupation | | | | |
| Job was in preferred occupation | 22.2 | 55.0 | 57.1 | 134.2 |
| Preferred a different occupation | 6.7 | 17.1 | 8.1 | 31.9 |
| Job was not in preferred occupation | 6.4 | 14.7 | 7.1 | 28.2 |
| Preferred occupation not specified | **0.3 | *2.4 | *1.1 | *3.7 |
| Did not have a preferred occupation | *4.0 | 27.4 | 34.9 | 66.3 |
| Full-time or part-time status of job when started | | | | |
| Full-time | 21.8 | 47.5 | *2.4 | 71.7 |
| Part-time | 11.1 | 52.0 | 97.7 | 160.8 |
| Total | 32.9 | 99.5 | 100.1 | 232.5 |

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Comprises successful jobseekers who were approached by employers.

(c) Includes some jobseekers who looked for work for less than one week and others whose duration was not known.

UNSUCCESSFUL JOBSEEKERS, Selected characteristics

| | July 1990 | July 1992 | July 1994 | July 1996 | July 1998 | July 2000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| PROPORTION (%) | | | | | | |
| Sex | | | | | | |
| Males | 50.6 | 57.9 | 55.4 | 54.2 | 54.3 | 53.4 |
| Females | 49.4 | 42.1 | 44.6 | 45.8 | 45.7 | 46.6 |
| Age group (years) | | | | | | |
| 15-19 | 19.8 | 17.3 | 15.4 | 16.3 | 16.4 | 18.1 |
| 20-24 | 16.5 | 17.6 | 16.8 | 15.1 | 15.6 | 15.0 |
| 25-34 | 25.2 | 25.0 | 23.5 | 23.0 | 22.2 | 20.6 |
| 35-44 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 20.9 | 20.7 | 21.7 | 22.7 |
| 45-54 | 11.6 | 12.9 | 14.1 | 15.5 | 15.1 | 16.2 |
| 55 and over | 7.9 | 8.2 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.1 | 7.5 |
| Educational attainment | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications(a) | 30.2 | 37.7 | 29.8 | 31.7 | 32.1 | 31.2 |
| Without post-school qualifications | 63.2 | 56.9 | 65.0 | 61.4 | 61.9 | 60.3 |
| Still at school | 6.6 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 6.9 | 6.0 | 8.5 |
| Birthplace | | | | | | |
| Born in Australia | 68.4 | 69.1 | 69.1 | 69.0 | 71.6 | 72.1 |
| Born outside Australia | 31.6 | 30.9 | 30.9 | 31.0 | 28.4 | 27.9 |
| Born in main English-speaking countries | 10.4 | 10.2 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 8.6 |
| Born in other countries | 21.1 | 20.6 | 21.6 | 21.3 | 19.2 | 19.2 |
| Labour force status (at the time of the survey) | | | | | | |
| In the labour force | 76.0 | 78.5 | 74.6 | 71.9 | 74.0 | 68.2 |
| Employed(b) | 6.2 | 7.9 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 6.6 |
| Unemployed | 69.7 | 70.6 | 68.1 | 64.9 | 67.5 | 61.6 |
| Not in the labour force | 24.0 | 21.5 | 25.4 | 28.1 | 26.0 | 31.8 |
| Active steps taken to find work in occupation being sought | | | | | | |
| Had a preferred occupation | 61.0 | 58.0 | 63.4 | 65.5 | 56.0 | 56.4 |
| Registered with Centrelink/CES(c) | 36.3 | 39.5 | 40.9 | 41.8 | 29.7 | 26.2 |
| Took no other active steps | 2.3 | 1.7 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 1.7 |
| Contacted likely employers | 28.6 | 33.9 | 33.2 | 34.5 | 25.0 | 20.5 |
| Took other active steps | 5.4 | 3.9 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 2.7 | 4.0 |
| Not registered with Centrelink/CES(c) | 24.4 | 18.3 | 22.3 | 23.6 | 26.1 | 30.0 |
| Took only inactive steps | 1.9 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 2.7 | 3.8 |
| Contacted likely employers | 17.9 | 12.3 | 15.3 | 16.0 | 18.1 | 19.6 |
| Took other active steps | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 6.6 |
| Had not looked for work in preferred occupation | *0.3 | *0.2 | *0.2 | *0.1 | *0.2 | *0.2 |
| Did not have a preferred occupation | 39.1 | 42.0 | 36.6 | 34.4 | 44.0 | 43.6 |
| Whether looked for full-time or part-time work in the previous twelve months | | | | | | |
| Full-time | (d)73.2 | 42.4 | 36.3 | 36.5 | 31.2 | 24.0 |
| Part-time | 26.8 | 19.7 | 23.6 | 27.1 | 28.2 | 33.5 |
| Both or no preference | — | 37.8 | 40.1 | 36.4 | 40.6 | 42.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| NUMBER OF PERSONS ('000) | | | | | | |
| Total | 515.6 | 970.8 | 855.4 | 748.2 | 771.2 | 613.3 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes persons who never attended school and, prior to July 1994, persons for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined.

(b) Unsuccessful jobseekers who are employed at the time of the survey include persons who have a job that is not for wages or salary.

(c) Changes to employment service arrangements occurred during the period September 1997 to May 1998. See paragraphs 11 to 15 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Includes persons who reported 'Both or no preference'.

| | WHETHER LOOKED FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK | | | SEX | | |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| | <i>Looked for full -time work</i> | <i>Looked for part -time work</i> | <i>Both or no preferences</i> | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months | | | | | | |
| Less than two weeks | 8.4 | 19.7 | 10.6 | 15.1 | 23.6 | 38.7 |
| 2 and under 4 weeks | 12.6 | 21.9 | 10.7 | 22.3 | 22.9 | 45.2 |
| 4 and under 8 weeks | 15.8 | 21.4 | 16.8 | 25.3 | 28.8 | 54.1 |
| 8 and under 13 weeks | 14.2 | 26.5 | 19.6 | 28.2 | 32.1 | 60.3 |
| 13 and under 26 weeks | 18.8 | 26.6 | 30.1 | 39.5 | 36.0 | 75.5 |
| 26 and under 39 weeks | 22.3 | 26.0 | 39.0 | 49.3 | 38.0 | 87.3 |
| 39 and under 52 weeks | 8.0 | 13.4 | 24.3 | 28.0 | 17.5 | 45.6 |
| 52 weeks | 46.8 | 49.9 | 110.0 | 119.9 | 86.8 | 206.7 |
| Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months | | | | | | |
| One | 139.9 | 183.3 | 244.9 | 299.8 | 268.3 | 568.1 |
| Two | *2.8 | 7.8 | 8.9 | 14.0 | 5.5 | 19.6 |
| Three or more | *4.3 | 14.1 | 7.3 | 13.8 | 11.9 | 25.7 |
| Occupation group of job being sought | | | | | | |
| Had a preferred occupation | 98.1 | 116.6 | 131.4 | 181.8 | 164.3 | 346.1 |
| Managers and administrators | *2.4 | **0.6 | *1.4 | *3.3 | *1.1 | *4.4 |
| Professionals | 15.7 | 10.3 | 11.1 | 23.0 | 14.1 | 37.1 |
| Associate professionals | 8.7 | *2.7 | 7.7 | 11.6 | 7.5 | 19.1 |
| Tradespersons and related workers | 21.2 | 7.0 | 18.2 | 39.4 | 7.0 | 46.4 |
| Advanced clerical and service workers | *2.5 | *4.4 | 5.3 | *1.3 | 10.9 | 12.2 |
| Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers | 13.0 | 28.6 | 24.3 | 17.1 | 48.8 | 65.9 |
| Intermediate production and transport workers | 12.4 | *3.3 | 14.9 | 26.0 | *4.5 | 30.5 |
| Elementary clerical, sales and service workers | *4.2 | 30.1 | 13.8 | 16.3 | 31.9 | 48.2 |
| Labourers and related workers | 10.4 | 14.8 | 18.8 | 27.8 | 16.3 | 44.0 |
| Preferred occupation inadequately described | *2.1 | *4.1 | *4.4 | *4.6 | 5.9 | 10.5 |
| More than one preferred occupation | 5.6 | 10.7 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 16.2 | 27.9 |
| Did not have a preferred occupation | 48.9 | 88.6 | 129.7 | 145.8 | 121.4 | 267.2 |
| Educational attainment | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 60.5 | 49.0 | 81.7 | 109.9 | 81.4 | 191.3 |
| Without post-school qualifications(a) | 84.6 | 108.4 | 176.9 | 191.4 | 178.4 | 369.8 |
| Still at school | *1.9 | 47.8 | *2.6 | 26.3 | 25.9 | 52.2 |
| Total | 147.0 | 205.2 | 261.1 | 327.6 | 285.7 | 613.3 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE, Populations

| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT(a) | ACT | Aust. |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|---------|
| MALES | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Successful jobseekers | 297.5 | 247.5 | 213.1 | 70.6 | 107.7 | 19.8 | 11.1 | 15.2 | 982.4 |
| Population 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Successful jobseekers in their first job | 37.0 | 31.4 | 24.3 | 9.3 | 11.1 | *3.2 | *1.4 | *2.4 | 120.1 |
| Population 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Unsuccessful jobseekers | 96.9 | 76.8 | 75.9 | 29.5 | 30.7 | 10.6 | *2.5 | *4.7 | 327.6 |
| FEMALES | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Successful jobseekers | 284.0 | 263.6 | 195.4 | 64.2 | 101.8 | 18.4 | 10.4 | 18.9 | 956.7 |
| Population 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Successful jobseekers in their first job | 42.0 | 25.9 | 21.5 | 8.0 | 9.0 | *2.5 | **0.8 | *2.8 | 112.4 |
| Population 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Unsuccessful jobseekers | 79.4 | 71.6 | 64.4 | 24.3 | 29.9 | 10.3 | *1.9 | *3.8 | 285.7 |
| PERSONS | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Successful jobseekers | 581.4 | 511.1 | 408.5 | 134.8 | 209.5 | 38.2 | 21.4 | 34.1 | 1 939.2 |
| Population 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Successful jobseekers in their first job | 79.0 | 57.3 | 45.8 | 17.3 | 20.1 | 5.7 | *2.2 | 5.2 | 232.5 |
| Population 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Unsuccessful jobseekers | 176.4 | 148.4 | 140.3 | 53.9 | 60.5 | 20.9 | *4.4 | 8.5 | 613.3 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas. For further information see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in July 2000 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who were within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

2 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the LFS and supplementary surveys.

SCOPE

3 In addition to those already excluded from the LFS, there were approximately 80,000 persons living in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia who were out of scope of this survey. The exclusion of these persons has only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual States and Territories, except the Northern Territory. Further details can be obtained by contacting the person listed on the front cover of this publication.

4 Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with handicaps), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

5 This survey was restricted to persons who had started or looked for a job for wages or salary during the previous 12 months, excluding persons who started a new job without changing employer.

COVERAGE

6 The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in July 2000. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

7 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Notes.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

8 The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

9 Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in February 1999 to take account of the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 1999 are therefore based on revised population benchmarks.

10 Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample. The reduction in sample size means that the standard errors for this survey differ from those applicable to previous surveys.

NOTES ON THE ESTIMATES

11 The Government made significant changes to the manner in which it provided employment services to the community between September 1997 and May 1998. As a result, the nature of job search activity undertaken by jobseekers changed.

12 Prior to the change in employment service arrangements, the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) provided jobseekers with access to labour market assistance and offices of the then Department of Social Security (DSS) provided jobseekers with access to income support.

13 Centrelink progressively replaced the CES and DSS shopfronts from September 1997. A competitive employment services market, the Job Network, was launched on 1 May 1998. The Job Network consists of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment services to the community. As from that date, jobseekers register with Centrelink for job search assistance and can choose to go to any of the Job Network employment agencies. The Agency then attempts to match jobseekers with jobs that are registered with them by employers.

14 During the transition to the new employment services market, Centrelink performed a similar role to the CES. Jobseekers registered at either a CES or Centrelink office, depending on which was operating in their area, for income support and/or job search assistance.

15 Due to the changes in the nature of employment services, caution should be used in comparing results for periods prior to the introduction of the changes with results from surveys conducted after the changes occurred.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

16 Results of similar surveys conducted in June 1986, and two-yearly from July 1990 were published in previous issues of *Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia* (Cat. no. 6245.0).

17 Results of a July 1982 survey were published in *Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Australia* (Cat. no. 6245.0).

NEXT SURVEY

18 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in July 2002.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

19 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

20 Other publications which may be of interest include:
Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (Cat. no. 6222.0)
Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0)
Labour Force Experience, Australia (Cat. no. 6206.0)
Labour Mobility, Australia (Cat. no. 6209.0)
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6220.0)
Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia (Cat. no. 6266.0)
Underemployed Workers, Australia (Cat. no. 6265.0)

21 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS *continued*

released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office or from the ABS Information Service on the World Wide Web, <URL:<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Birthplace (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Jon Havelock on Canberra 02 6252 7747, or by facsimile on 02 6252 7784.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Population 1 | Successful jobseekers. |
| Population 2 | Successful jobseekers in their first job. |
| Population 3 | Unsuccessful jobseekers. |

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

| Data Items | Populations | Data Items | Populations |
|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| 1 State or Territory of usual residence | All | 7B Birthplace (1) | All |
| New South Wales | | Born in Australia | |
| Victoria | | Born outside Australia | |
| Queensland | | Born in main English-speaking countries | |
| South Australia | | Born in other countries | |
| Western Australia | | | |
| Tasmania | | 7C Birthplace (2) | All |
| Northern Territory | | Born in Australia | |
| Australian Capital Territory | | Born outside Australia | |
| 2 Area of usual residence | All | The Middle East and North Africa | |
| State Capital City | | Africa (excluding North Africa) | |
| Balance of State/Territory | | Northern America | |
| 3 Region of usual residence | All | South America, Central America and the Caribbean | |
| Standard labour force dissemination regions | | Northeast Asia | |
| 4 Sex | All | Southeast Asia | |
| Males | | Southern Asia | |
| Females | | Europe and the former USSR | |
| 5 Marital status | All | Oceania and Antarctica | |
| Married | | 8 Age group (years) | All |
| Not married | | 15–19 | |
| 6A Relationship in household (1) | All | 20–24 | |
| Family member | | 25–34 | |
| Husband or wife | | 35–44 | |
| With dependants | | 45–54 | |
| Without dependants | | 55 and over | |
| Lone parent | | 9 Labour force status and full-time or part-time status | All |
| With dependants | | In the labour force | |
| Without dependants | | Employed | |
| Dependent student | | Full-time | |
| Non-dependent child | | Part-time | |
| Other family person | | Unemployed | |
| Non-family member | | Looking for full-time work | |
| Lone person | | Looking for part-time work | |
| Not living alone | | Not in the labour force | |
| Not determined | | 10 Educational attainment | All |
| 6B Relationship in household (2) | All | With post-school qualifications | |
| Family member | | Higher degree | |
| Husband or wife | | Postgraduate diploma | |
| With children under 15 | | Bachelor degree | |
| Without children under 15 | | Undergraduate or associate diploma | |
| Lone parent | | Skilled or basic vocational qualification | |
| With children under 15 | | Nursing level unknown | |
| With dependent students but without children under 15 | | Without post-school qualifications | |
| Without dependants | | Completed highest level of secondary school | |
| Dependent student | | Didn't complete highest level of secondary school | |
| Non-dependent child | | Left school aged under 15 years | |
| Other family person | | Left school aged 15 years | |
| Non-family member | | Left school aged 16 years | |
| Lone person | | Left school aged 17 years | |
| Not living alone | | Left school aged 18 years or more | |
| Not determined | | Never attended school | |
| 7A Birthplace and period of arrival | All | Still at school | |
| Born in Australia | | 11 Whether out of work prior to starting job | 1 |
| Born outside Australia | | Out of work prior to starting job | |
| Arrived before 1971 | | Changed employer to start job | |
| Arrived 1971–1980 | | 12 Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months | 1 |
| Arrived 1981–1990 | | One | |
| Arrived 1991 to survey date | | Two | |
| | | Three or more | |
| | | Had a job to go to | |

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

| Data Items | Populations | Data Items | Populations |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| <p>13 Whether first job ever held First job ever held Had worked before</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>17 Duration of looking for work before being offered job Had looked for work Less than 1 year 1 and under 4 weeks 4 and under 8 weeks 8 and under 13 weeks 13 and under 26 weeks 26 and under 52 weeks 1 and under 2 years 2 and under 5 years 5 years and over Had not looked for work Not determined</p> | <p>1-2</p> |
| <p>14 Method of job attainment Jobseeker approached employer Had no prior knowledge that job was available First step taken — Tendered or advertised for work Contacted likely employers Contacted friends or relatives Registered with or used Centrelink services Other steps taken Had prior knowledge that job was available Knowledge was obtained through — Centrelink Employment agency School programs Newspaper advertisements Internet sites Friends, relatives, company contacts Other sources Employer approached jobseeker</p> | <p>1-2</p> | <p>18 Occupation Managers and administrators Professionals Associate professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers</p> | <p>1-2</p> |
| <p>15 Role of Centrelink in job attainment Jobseeker approached employer Had no prior knowledge that job was available First step taken — Registered with Centrelink Other steps taken Had prior knowledge that job was available Knowledge obtained through — Centrelink Other sources Centrelink helped jobseeker to obtain job in some way Centrelink did not help jobseeker to obtain job in any way Employer approached jobseeker</p> | <p>1-2</p> | <p>19 Full-time or part-time status of job when started Full-time Part-time</p> | <p>1-2</p> |
| <p>16 Month of starting job July 1999 August 1999 September 1999 October 1999 November 1999 December 1999 January 2000 February 2000 March 2000 April 2000 May 2000 June 2000 July 2000 Had a job to go to</p> | <p>1-2</p> | <p>20 Whether job was in preferred occupation Job was in preferred occupation Preferred a different occupation Job was not in preferred occupation Preferred occupation not specified Did not have a preferred occupation</p> | <p>1-2</p> |
| | | <p>21 Preferred occupation group Had a preferred occupation Job was in preferred occupation Job was not in preferred occupation Managers and administrators Professionals Associate professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers Preferred occupation not specified Did not have a preferred occupation</p> | <p>1-2</p> |

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

Data Items Populations Data Items Populations

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>22 All steps taken to find work in preferred job in the previous 12 months(a) 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered with Centrelink Contacted likely employers Checked Centrelink touchscreens Checked factory noticeboards Contacted an employment agency Looked in newspapers Searched internet sites Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job Advertised or tendered for work Contacted friends or relatives Other steps (a) Asked of those who had looked for work in a preferred occupation | <p>28 Occupation group of job being sought 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had a preferred occupation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers and administrators Professionals Associate professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers Did not have a preferred occupation |
| <p>23 Active steps taken to find work in preferred job in the previous 12 months 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had a preferred occupation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job was in preferred occupation Job was not in preferred occupation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered with Centrelink and — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took no other active steps Contacted likely employers Took other active steps Not registered with Centrelink and — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took only inactive steps Contacted likely employers Took other active steps Had not looked for work in preferred occupation Preferred occupation not specified | <p>29 All steps taken to find work in job being sought in the previous 12 months(a) 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered with Centrelink Contacted prospective employers Checked Centrelink touchscreens Checked factory noticeboards Contacted an employment agency Looked in newspapers Searched internet sites Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job Advertised or tendered for work Contacted friends or relatives Other steps (a) Asked of those who had looked for work in a preferred occupation |
| <p>24 Whether current job is in occupation group of preferred job 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job was in preferred occupation Job was not in preferred occupation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred same occupation group Preferred different occupation group Preferred occupation not described | <p>30 Active steps taken to find work in job being sought in the previous 12 months 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had a preferred occupation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered with Centrelink and — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took no other active steps Contacted likely employers Took other active steps Not registered with Centrelink and — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took only inactive steps Contacted likely employers Took other active steps Had not looked for work in preferred occupation Did not have a preferred occupation |
| <p>25 Whether looked for full-time or part-time work in the previous 12 months 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looked for full-time work Looked for part-time work Both or no preference | |
| <p>26 Number of spells looking for work in the previous 12 months 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Two Three or more | |
| <p>27 Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 2 weeks 2 and under 4 weeks 4 and under 8 weeks 8 and under 13 weeks 13 and under 26 weeks 26 and under 39 weeks 39 and under 52 weeks 52 weeks | |

APPENDIX 2 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program collects data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of supplementary and special labour force surveys. Data are available in publication form, by subscription or on request. Additional data from these surveys is available on request by contacting the ABS.

- *Career Experience*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1998 (Cat. no. 6254.0)
- *Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications*. Final issue 1993 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6243.0)
- *Child Care*. Irregular. Latest issue June 1999 (Cat. no. 4402.0)
- *Education and Training Experience*. Irregular. Latest issue 1997 (Cat. no. 6278.0)
- *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership*. Annual. Latest issue August 2000 (Cat. no. 6310.0)
- *Employment Benefits*. Final issue August 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6334.0.40.001)
- *Forms of Employment*. Irregular. Latest issue August 1998 (Cat. no. 6359.0)
- *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons*. Annual. Latest issue July 2000 (Cat. no. 6222.0)
- *Labour Force Experience*. Two-yearly. Latest issue February 1999 (Cat. no. 6206.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment*. Final issue February 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6235.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families*. Annual. Latest issue June 2000 (Cat. no. 6224.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1999 (Cat. no. 6250.0)
- *Labour Mobility*. Two-yearly. Latest issue February 2000 (Cat. no. 6209.0)
- *Locations of Work*. Irregular. Latest issue June 2000 (Cat. no. 6275.0)
- *Multiple Jobholding*. Irregular. Latest issue August 1997 (Cat. no. 6216.0)
- *Participation in Education*. Final issue September 1999 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6272.0)
- *Persons Not in the Labour Force*. Annual. Latest issue September 2000 (Cat. no. 6220.0)
- *Persons Who had Re-entered the Labour Force*. Final issue July 1995 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6264.0.40.001)
- *Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force*. Final issue September 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6267.0.40.001)
- *Retirement and Retirement Intentions*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1997 (Cat. no. 6238.0)
- *Retrenchment and Redundancy*. Irregular. Latest issue July 1997 (Cat. no. 6266.0)
- *Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience*. Two-yearly. Latest issue July 2000 (Cat. no. 6245.0)
- *Superannuation*. Final issue November 1995 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6319.0)
- *Trade Union Members*. Final issue August 1996 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6325.0)
- *Transition from Education to Work*. Annual. Latest issue May 2000 (Cat. no. 6227.0)
- *Underemployed Workers*. Annual. Latest issue September 1999 (Cat. no. 6265.0)
- *Working Arrangements*. Irregular. Latest issue August 1997 (Cat. no. 6342.0)

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

INTRODUCTION

1 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

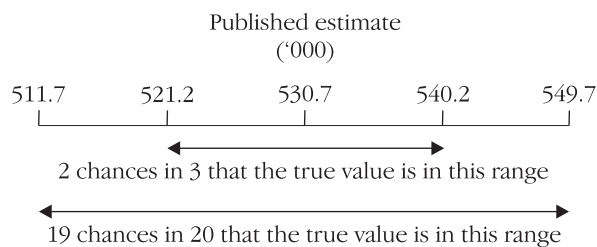
2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the "SE model", which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

3 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 4 shows that 530,700 persons who had prior knowledge that the job was available were out of work prior to starting their job. Since this estimate is between 500,000 and 1,000,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 9,300 and 12,150 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate (est.)} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of est.} - \text{lower est.}}{\text{upper est.} - \text{lower est.}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 9,300 + \left(\left(\frac{530,700 - 500,000}{1,000,000 - 500,000} \right) \times (12,150 - 9,300) \right) \\
 &= 9,500 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

4 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 521,200 to 540,200 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 511,700 to 549,700. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



5 In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs so that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs

**CALCULATION OF STANDARD
ERROR** *continued*

greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less.

**PROPORTIONS AND
PERCENTAGES**

6 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

7 Considering the example from the previous page, of the 530,700 persons who were out of work prior to starting a new job, and who had prior knowledge that the job was available, 170,200 or 32.1% had prior knowledge that the job was available through newspaper advertisements. The SE of 170,200 may be calculated by interpolation as 6,200. To convert this to a RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or 6,200/170,200 = 3.6%. The SE for 530,700 was calculated previously as 9,500, which converted to a RSE is 9,500/530,700 = 1.8%. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is

$$\sqrt{(3.6)^2 - (1.8)^2} = 3.1\%$$

8 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of persons who were out of work prior to starting a new job and had prior knowledge that a job was available through newspaper advertisements is 1.0 percentage point (= (32.1/100)x3.1). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of persons who were out of work prior to starting a new job and had prior knowledge that a job was available through newspaper advertisements is between 31.1% and 33.1% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 30.1% to 34.1%.

DIFFERENCES

9 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

10 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

AUSTRALIA

| Size of estimate (Persons) | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | SE | RSE |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------|
| | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | % |
| 100 | .. | 110 | 190 | 170 | 160 | 110 | 120 | 140 | 80 | 80.0 |
| 200 | 170 | 180 | 270 | 220 | 230 | 150 | 160 | 170 | 140 | 70.0 |
| 300 | 230 | 240 | 330 | 270 | 280 | 180 | 180 | 190 | 200 | 66.7 |
| 500 | 340 | 340 | 420 | 330 | 350 | 220 | 230 | 230 | 290 | 58.0 |
| 700 | 430 | 420 | 490 | 380 | 410 | 250 | 260 | 250 | 370 | 52.9 |
| 1000 | 550 | 530 | 580 | 440 | 480 | 290 | 300 | 280 | 470 | 47.0 |
| 1500 | 720 | 670 | 690 | 520 | 570 | 340 | 350 | 330 | 610 | 40.7 |
| 2000 | 860 | 790 | 790 | 590 | 650 | 380 | 390 | 360 | 730 | 36.5 |
| 2500 | 1 000 | 900 | 850 | 650 | 700 | 400 | 450 | 400 | 850 | 34.0 |
| 3000 | 1 100 | 1 000 | 950 | 700 | 750 | 450 | 450 | 400 | 950 | 31.7 |
| 3500 | 1 200 | 1 050 | 1 000 | 750 | 800 | 500 | 500 | 450 | 1 050 | 30.0 |
| 4000 | 1 300 | 1 150 | 1 100 | 800 | 850 | 500 | 500 | 450 | 1 100 | 27.5 |
| 5000 | 1 450 | 1 250 | 1 200 | 850 | 950 | 550 | 550 | 500 | 1 250 | 25.0 |
| 7000 | 1 700 | 1 500 | 1 400 | 1 000 | 1 100 | 650 | 650 | 600 | 1 550 | 22.1 |
| 10000 | 2 050 | 1 750 | 1 600 | 1 150 | 1 250 | 700 | 750 | 650 | 1 850 | 18.5 |
| 15000 | 2 450 | 2 100 | 1 900 | 1 350 | 1 500 | 850 | 850 | 800 | 2 250 | 15.0 |
| 20000 | 2 800 | 2 350 | 2 200 | 1 500 | 1 650 | 950 | 950 | 900 | 2 600 | 13.0 |
| 30000 | 3 300 | 2 750 | 2 600 | 1 800 | 1 950 | 1 100 | 1 100 | 1 050 | 3 150 | 10.5 |
| 40000 | 3 650 | 3 100 | 2 900 | 2 000 | 2 200 | 1 250 | 1 200 | 1 150 | 3 550 | 8.9 |
| 50000 | 3 950 | 3 300 | 3 200 | 2 200 | 2 350 | 1 350 | 1 300 | 1 300 | 3 900 | 7.8 |
| 100000 | 4 950 | 4 200 | 4 250 | 2 900 | 3 050 | 1 750 | 1 700 | 1 750 | 5 100 | 5.1 |
| 150000 | 5 600 | 4 850 | 5 050 | 3 400 | 3 500 | 2 000 | 1 950 | 2 100 | 5 900 | 3.9 |
| 200000 | 6 150 | 5 450 | 5 650 | 3 800 | 3 900 | 2 250 | .. | 2 400 | 6 550 | 3.3 |
| 300000 | 7 200 | 6 450 | 6 650 | 4 450 | 4 450 | 2 600 | .. | 2 850 | 7 650 | 2.6 |
| 500000 | 8 900 | 8 100 | 8 150 | 5 450 | 5 300 | 3 100 | .. | .. | 9 300 | 1.9 |
| 1000000 | 12 450 | 11 350 | 10 700 | 7 150 | 6 600 | .. | .. | .. | 12 150 | 1.2 |
| 2000000 | 18 300 | 16 450 | 13 950 | 9 350 | 8 150 | .. | .. | .. | 16 050 | 0.8 |
| 5000000 | 32 850 | 28 350 | 19 650 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 24 600 | 0.5 |
| 10000000 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 43 150 | 0.4 |

.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| Active steps taken to find work | Steps taken during the 12 months up to the time of the survey. They comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ registering with Centrelink for job search assistance;■ contacting an employment agency;■ contacting prospective employers;■ answering a newspaper advertisement for a job;■ checking Centrelink touchscreens;■ checking factory noticeboards;■ advertising or tendering for work; and■ contacting friends or relatives. |
| Centrelink | Centrelink is a statutory authority responsible for delivering a range of Commonwealth Government services, including the registration of persons for job search assistance and income support. |
| CES | Prior to April 1998, the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) provided a job placement service for jobseekers and managed labour programs. It also provided the contact point for eligible jobseekers to register for income support. |
| Educational attainment | Measures the highest qualification completed by the respondent, classified according to the <i>ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)</i> (Cat.No.1262.0). |
| Job | Any employment paid by wages or salary that is full-time or part-time lasting for two weeks or more. |
| Job Network | Job Network is a national network of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment placement services to the community. Jobseekers who are registered with Centrelink for job search assistance are able to contact any Job Network provider in their area to receive this service. |
| Main English-speaking countries | Comprises the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and New Zealand. |
| Method of job attainment | Determined by the answer to the question 'How did you find out that particular job was available?', and described according to whether an employer approached the jobseeker or a jobseeker approached the employer. In the latter case, the method is described according to whether or not the jobseeker knew that the particular job was available before approaching the employer. |
| Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months | The number of times the person reported being out of work and looking for a job during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week. |
| Occupation | All occurrences of occupation in this publication relate to Major Group as defined by the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition (ASCO)</i> (Cat. no. 1220.0). |
| Preferred occupation | Determined by asking respondents if they wanted the kind of work they were doing, or had done, and whether they would prefer a different kind of work. Their preferred occupation was the same as their current occupation if they reported that they would not prefer a different kind of work. Otherwise, the preferred occupation was determined using the description of the kind of work they preferred. |
| Successful jobseekers | Those who had started work for an employer for wages or salary lasting two weeks or more during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week. If more than one job was started during this period, details were obtained about the most recent job started. Persons who started a new job without changing employer were excluded. |
| Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months | The total number of weeks the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week. |

GLOSSARY *continued*

Unsuccessful jobseekers Those who had not started work for an employer for wages or salary, but who had looked for work with an employer for wages or salary while they were out of work, during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week. Unsuccessful jobseekers can be employed at the time of the survey if they work in their own limited liability company, or are employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

INFORMATION SERVICE

Data which have been published and can be provided within five minutes are free of charge. Our information consultants can also help you to access the full range of ABS information—ABS user-pays services can be tailored to your needs, time frame and budget. Publications may be purchased. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

- PHONE* **1300 135 070**
- EMAIL* **client.services@abs.gov.au**
- FAX* 1300 135 211
- POST* Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney 1041

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

ABS subscription services provide regular, convenient and prompt deliveries of ABS publications and products as they are released. Email delivery of monthly and quarterly publications is available.

- PHONE* 1300 366 323
- EMAIL* subscriptions@abs.gov.au
- FAX* 03 9615 7848
- POST* Subscription Services, ABS, GPO Box 2796Y, Melbourne 3001



2624500007000
ISSN 0818-9978

RRP \$19.50

© Commonwealth of Australia 2001

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics